Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 RSC-01 DRC-01

EUR-25 /067 W

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R 230825Z MAR 74 ZFG FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7893 INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 0643 LM.O. 11652: N/A NWAGS: BGEN, SU SUBJ: BUSINESS INQUIRY

REF: STATE 055351 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS RODI REGEILAN (BORN ABDEL LAP F ABU REGELA) RECENTLY RETURNED KHARTOUM AND WILL BECOME PARTNER WITH MINISTRY LOCAL GOVERNMENT (KHARTOUM MUNICIPALITY) IN BUS COMPANY. PROJECT INVOLVES MUNICIPALITY ASSUMING CONTROL OVER ALL BUSES, MOST OF WHICH NOW INDIVIDUALLY OWNED. GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE 51 PERCENT SHARE, FORMER BUS OWNERS 32 PERCENT AND REGEILAN 17 PERCENT. REGEILAN WOULD SERVE AS ADVISOR/MANAGER OF NEW COMPANY, BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE AND HAVE AGENCY FOR IMPORTATION NEW BUSES.

2. RE REPUTATION, REGEILAN MEMBER ABUL ELA FAMILY, PROMINENT IN SUDANESE BUSINESS WORLD. THERE IS REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN EMBEZZLEMENT CASE PRIOR WORLD WAR II WHEN WORKING GELLATLY HANKEG KHARTOUM. MORE IMPORTANT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT REGEILAN HAD DIFFICULTIES WHILE OPERATING LARGE BUS COMPANY FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN 1950'S IN CAIRO. HE REPORTEDLY FAILED PAY TAXES AND, AFTER SUCCEEDING GETTING HARD CURRENCY OUT OF COUNTRY, SKIPPED OUT. PROPERTY WHICH HE ABANDONED DID NOT COVER DEBTS OWED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. COMMENT: WHILE REGEILAN'S BACKGROUND CLEARLY NOT UNBLEMISHED, QUESTIONABLE ACTIVITIES OCCURRED YEARS AGO. HE APPARENTLY HAS CLOSE TIES WNTH AT LEAST SOME OFFICIALS GOS. DEPT MAY WISH SEEK FURTHER DETAILS REGEILAN'S CAIRO OPERATION FROM EMBASSY CAIRO. WE ASSUME CONGEN MILAN IN POSITION GIVE REPORT ON MORE RECENT ACTIVITIES BUT NOTE IT NOT ON DISTRIBUTION REFTEL. BREWER

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